Name of the Agency	Base Cost
Maharashtra GW	13.03
Orissa SW	10.12
Orissa GW	11.23
TNSW	8.71
TNGW	11.94
Total Existing States	182.32
Goa	18.71
Himachal Pradesh	49.50
Punjab	40.95
Pondicherry	13.16
Total New States	122.35
Total Project Cost	525.59

	Cost Abstracts (Rs. Crore)
Base Line Cost	525.59
Physical Contingencies	34.99
Price Contingencies	71.25
Total Project Cost	631.83

UNESCO Report on water management

4092. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the findings of the UNESCO'S United Nations World Water Development Report' in so far as it relates to India's water management;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Report has highlighted that a large section of the country's population has no access to safe drinking water and to basic sanitation and that corruption in water supply and sanitation sector is rampant;

(c) whether the Report has also highligted excess fluoride content in water and high incidence of diseases arising from poor water supply and sanitation and soil-transmitted worm infections; and

(d) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) United Nations World Water Development Report brought out

by UNESCO in March, 2006 broadly covers the various issues related to water management such as challenges of Governance, changing natural system, state of resources, protecting and promoting human health, water for food, agricultrue, industry, energy, water managing and sharing of waters, etc. The main findings of the report are as under:

* Water insufficiency is primarily caused by inefficient supply rather than by water shortages.
* Many of the solutions to water problems lie in better governance.
* Social and economic resilience is the key to sustaining development and meeting societal goals.
* Water problems and challenges are connected and should be addressed in a holistic manner.
* Reliable data is essential for Integrated Water Resources Management.
* Strong indicators are needed to monitor progress.
* The water sector needs greater investment.
* Greater transparency, accountability and stakeholder involvement is needed.
* International and national cooperation is required to meet the Millennium Development Goals related to poverty alleviation and water.

The report does not include country-wise discussions on various issues. However, reference to specific cases of some of the countries including India have been made in different chapters on identified topics.

The recommendations made in the report are as under:

* To appreciate the context within which water issue must be approached.
* To recognize that the various issues of water are interrelated— and with growing demand and, in general, decreasing supply, competition between uses and users is increasing, requiring greater wisdom in allocation of the resoruce.
* To appreciate the variety of circumstance—solutions have to be tailored to situation.

* To understand that water moves within natural limits—but that these do not usually correspond to the administrative units within which societies organize themselves.

* To improve basic data through research. Greater knowledge and understanding are prerequisites for better management of all the system involved.

* To focus on governance.

* To anticipate and adapt to changing circumstance.

* To all assume responsibility for action: There is a need for responsible action and involvement at all levels of society. Individuals at community level should be encouraged and given the means to take responsibility for their own problems. Likewise, at local and national levels, governments must take their share of responsibility. At international levels, responsibility must be taken to set goals and targets towards which the world should strive, and to assess the global situations with a view to sharing knowledge.

(b) Under the section "Water Governance in Practice: Trend in Reforms and Right", a specific reference has been made about corruption in water supply and santiation sectors in India which is based on the results of study to map petty corruptions and its modus operandi.

(c) Yes, the report has highlighted excess fluoride content in water and high incidence of diseases arising from poor water supply and sanitation and soil transmitted worm infections.

(d) As regards, the issue of corruption in water supply and sanitation, the Ministry of Urban Development has informed that they have not received any complaint from any of the State Government/Urban Local Bodies regarding large scale corruption and irregularities in distribution of potable water in most cities across the country. However, the Ministry of Urban Development has brought out a manual on 'Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply System' with a separate chapter on 'Public Awareness—Customer Relations' which would facilitate the concerned State Governments/Urban Local Bodies for guidance. The issue related to contamination of ground water are being addressed by the respective departments/agencies.